

Today's News - Wednesday, December 18, 2013

- Russell ruminates on New York's Rockaway Peninsula that "took Hurricane Sandy's storm surge on the chin" and is now "a place where the city can test-drive innovations in beachfront residential development" with the winning design in the FAR ROC competition.
- Adam decries "radical architects" (ouch!) who "managed to persuade civil servants" to practically institutionalize Modernist "code words" in the U.K.'s new National Planning Policy Framework.
- Bernstein takes an in-depth look at how the preservation of midcentury modern buildings fared in 2013: "if preservationists of yore manned barricades and picketed, this generation publishes coffee table books" (a great read!).
- A look at the "nascent, but budding, trend" to find new uses for old parking garages: "'carchitecture' is becoming a buzzword."
- Wainwright and Merrick on FAT folding up its tent: "architecture's biggest pranksters call it quits - boyband style" + "The kookiest architects in Britain have called it quits after 20 years of cheerfully sticking two fingers up at the world of posh modernist architecture."
- Betsky weighs in on Julia Morgan's posthumous AIA Gold Medal: "a deserved victory, given the organization's definition of architecture."
- Pedersen is a bit more pointed: Morgan "deserves every bit of recognition she gets...but the AIA still manages to come off as tone deaf."
- Jacobs take on Morgan Gold: "the timing of the prize may lead some critics to suggest that it has more to do with an architect who is still among the living."
- Meanwhile, we cheer Ms. Dreiling's inauguration as the 2014 AIA President, who promises to "emphasize a culture in firms that nurtures emerging professionals and promotes diversity and inclusiveness."
- Eyefuls of the three finalists vying to design Moscow's new National Centre for Contemporary Arts.
- Greensboro, NC, taps H3 Hardy Collaboration Architecture and Rosser International to design its new performing arts center.
- Eyefuls of Architect Magazine's 2013 Annual Design Review winners (great presentations).
- Could a Chinese Disneyland be headed for New York's bucolic Catskills, "complete with an amusement park, mansions, a casino, retail centers, a college, and more" (why do we feel like gagging).
- Call for entries/presentations: 7th Making Cities Liveable Conference: "Healthy - Sustainable - Resilient Cities," in Australia next July.

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Next Wave: The Future of Beachfront Living: New York City's Rockaway Peninsula...took Hurricane Sandy's storm surge on the chin...An undeveloped 81-acre parcel...has become a place where the city can test-drive innovations in beachfront residential development...FAR ROC ("for a resilient Rockaway") sustainable-design competition..."With everyone watching us, what better way than to try and elicit some world-class ideas?" By James S. Russell -- White Arkitekter/Arup/Gensler [images]- Bloomberg News

The Institutionalisation of Modernism: Code words...are creeping into government policy and guidelines: ...new National Planning Policy Framework: "Planning policies and decisions should not attempt to impose architectural styles ..." ...radical architects...managed to persuade the civil servants to put in note especially for them: "policies and decisions ... should not stifle innovation, originality and initiative"...That's the clever thing about code words. By Robert Adam/ADAM Architecture-Building (UK)

Worth Preserving: As the gap between the rich and the middle class widens, the challenge to save midcentury modern buildings becomes even more vexing...Will lovers of modernism ever outnumber the skeptics? ...a little less disposable income at the top might make for a few less disposable buildings. By Fred A. Bernstein -- Pierre Koenig; Gregory Ain; Gregory Ain; Bertrand Goldberg; Richard Neutra; Paul Rudolph; Albert Ledner; Eero Saarinen; Kevin Roche; Sasaki, Walker & Associates; Alexander Gorlin; Paul Weidlinger; Horace Gifford; Robert Venturi; etc. [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Developers finding new uses for old parking garages: In the Twin Cities and elsewhere, "carchitecture" is becoming a buzzword: The parking garage could well be the ugly duckling of architecture...It's a nascent, but budding, trend. -- Cunningham Group- Minneapolis Star Tribune

The end of FAT: architecture's biggest pranksters call it quits -- boyband style: ...the UK's most playful practice is breaking up after 23 years...their outlook represents a sadly rare approach in contemporary architectural culture. By Oliver Wainwright -- Fashion Architecture Taste; Sam Jacob; Sean Griffiths; Charles Holland [images]- Guardian (UK)

FAT's all folks: Architecture's biggest jokers sign off in style: The kookiest architects in Britain have called it quits after 20 years of cheerfully sticking two fingers up at the world of posh modernist architecture..."We were always more like a band than a career"... By Jay Merrick -- Sam Jacob; Sean Griffiths; Charles Holland [images]- Independent (UK)

What Julia Morgan's Gold Medal Really Means: The AIA's selection commends her unmatched juxtaposition of historical styles and is a deserved victory, given the organization's definition of architecture...just be glad that a very good architect at long last has received something she certainly deserved. By Aaron Betsky [images]- Architect Magazine

How Posthumous Can You Get? Julia Morgan...posthumously awarded the AIA's Gold Medal—56 years after her death...deserves every bit of recognition she gets, but for an organization that desperately wants to project an image of inclusiveness, this feels like a serious miscalculation...the score has been righted, but the AIA still manages to come off as tone deaf. By Martin C. Pedersen- Metropolis Magazine

Julia Morgan Posthumously Awarded the AIA 2014 Gold Medal: More than a half century after her death, Morgan becomes the first woman architect to win the honor...the timing of the prize may lead some critics to suggest that it has more to do with an architect who is still among the living: Denise Scott Brown...Not so... By Karrie Jacobs [images]- Architect Magazine

Helene Combs Dreiling, FAIA, Inaugurated as 2014 AIA President: ...executive director of the Virginia Center for Architecture, was inaugurated as the 90th president..." We need to...emphasize a culture in firms that nurtures emerging professionals and promotes diversity and inclusiveness..." - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

New National Centre for Contemporary Arts (NCCA) competition finalists announced: The Centre's new Moscow building promises to become a national bank of knowledge on contemporary art... -- Nieto Sobejano Arquitectos; Mel; Heneghan Peng Architects [images]- National Centre for Contemporary Arts (NCCA) (Russia)

Design team finalized for Greensboro performing arts center: New York-based H3 Hardy Collaboration Architecture will be the design architect for the \$65 million Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts...Atlanta-based Rosser International inc. is the project's lead architect. - Business Journal of the Greater Triad Area (North Carolina)

2013 Annual Design Review: ...17 projects that represent the best in American architecture...that answered their (and Vitruvius's) call for balance between design, technology, and human need. By Katie Gerfen -- Trahan Architects; Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG; WRNS Studio; NADAAA; Selldorf Architects; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Julie Snow Architects; Steven Holl Architects; Weiss/Manfredi; Andre Tchelistcheff Architects; Lorcan O'Herlihy Architects; Caples Jefferson

Architects; WXY Architecture + Urban Design; SHoP Architects; Allied Works Architecture; Anmahian Winton Architects; Moore Ruble Yudell [images, info] - Architect Magazine

America Could Get Its Own 600-Acre 'Chinese Disneyland': The Catskills, in upstate New York, are known for their natural beauty and quaint lifestyle. But they could become a lot flashier...proposal for a multibillion-dollar "China City of America," complete with an amusement park, mansions, a casino, retail centers, a college, and more. By Jenny Xie [images] - The Atlantic Cities

Call for entries/Call for presentations: 7th Making Cities Liveable Conference: Healthy – Sustainable – Resilient – Cities; July 10-11 in Kingscliff, Australia; deadline for abstracts: March 3, 2014 - Healthy Cities

Nuts + Bolts #7: Leveraging Your Passion: Principals already know what they love to do. It is learning to let go of the other, more mundane tasks that they find difficult. By Steve Whitehorn - ArchNewsNow



-- "Gathered Sky" by James Turrell, Beijing Temple of Wisdom, China
-- The Presence of the Past: Peter Zumthor Reconsiders LACMA, by Kirsten Kiser

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